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'It has become so normal to hear people talk about losing a family member'
- Emmanuela Bringi
metroNEWS

Cute BUT NOT CUDDLY

Leash your dogs, secure your trash during coyote birthing season, experts warn
metroNEWS

COURTESY MARK WHITE/ STANLEY PARK ECOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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Your essential daily news

Britain has triggered a two-year divorce process from the European Union. **World**

Richmond settles on Airbnb rules

SHORT-TERM RENTALS

Homeowners would need to be licensed as a bed and breakfast

Matt Kieltyka
Metro | Vancouver

Richmond's mayor believes a new bylaw regulating Airbnb-type rentals will effectively address community concerns about short-term rentals.

Council settled on a proposed framework this week, which will prohibit entire dwellings from being rented out for 30 days or less.

Single-family homes can still be rented out short-term but only if the owner is licensed as a bed and breakfast operator with the city (subject to fees and inspections) and also lives full-time on the property.

The regulations come at a time when Richmond's rental vacancy rate is tight — just one per cent in 2016 — and as the entire region struggles with housing affordability.

But Mayor Malcolm Brodie said the city is more concerned about the effect short-term rentals have on residential communities.

"I think Vancouver is concerned about (short-term rentals) mostly because of the shortage of rental accommodations," Brodie told Metro. "That is a factor for us as well, but I would say a bigger issue is the sheer impact on the neighbourhood. You've got people coming and going at all times of the day and night; basically a business operating in a neighbourhood with parking impacts and strangers. That kind of thing has gotten people quite upset."

If approved, new bylaw will require any single-family homes used for short-term rentals register as licensed bed and breakfasts in the City of Richmond. DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS **Inset: Richmond Mayor Malcolm Brodie** COURTESY CITY OF RICHMOND

Under the bylaw, homes with secondary suites or laneway/coach houses cannot be rented out short-term.

Bed and breakfasts in the same area must be separated by at least 500 metres to prevent the commercialization of neighbourhoods.

Property owners operating short-term rentals must also notify their neighbours and provide them with direct contact information.

Bylaw officers will be able to fine violators $1,000 a day per offence.

"I think that it's going to go a long way towards effectively addressing the issue," the mayor said.

"At the very least, it will give the bylaw people a means of enforcement. Before, it was very difficult for them to take steps other than speak to the owners and get their co-operation."

> **"I think Vancouver is concerned about (short-term rentals) mostly because of the shortage of rental accommodations.**
> Malcolm Brodie

The bylaw will go to public hearing next month and Brodie hopes the bylaw can go into effect by the end of the month.

The City of Vancouver has long been grappling with how to regulate short-term rentals itself and its regulatory scheme is still undergoing consultations.

Last fall, the city proposed to relax its own bylaw prohibiting rentals of under 30 days, and instead plans to introduce a new permitting a business licence process that will allow Vancouverites to legally rent out homes and rooms via short-term rental sites like Airbnb.

To obtain a business licence, renters or homeowners must prove the home or rooms they want to rent out is their principal residence, and must display their permit when listing the room or unit.

The proposal was met with fierce debate, both for and against, in council.

Other British Columbia communities like Nelson and Tofino have also taken steps to regulate short-term rentals.

— WITH FILES FROM JEN ST. DENIS

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Thousands of people gather at Sunset Beach during the annual 4-20 cannabis culture celebration in Vancouver, B.C., on April 20 of last year. THE CANADIAN PRESS/DARRYL DYCK

Activists' hearts set on Sunset Beach

MARIJUANA

Protesters and tokers refuse to change 4-20 event venue

Wanyee Li
Metro | Vancouver

It looks like tens of thousands of people will flock to Sunset Beach on April 20th this year to smoke and to buy marijuana from hundreds of booths regardless of whether city politicians like it or not.

Vancouver city council was originally going to consider finding a new location for this year's 4/20 rally but event organizers made it clear with less than a month to go, it was too late. The race to find a new location was triggered by the Vancouver Park Board's vote to reject organizers' permit application for Sunset Beach.

"To be having this discussion just a few weeks before the event that will have thousands of people and hundreds of booths, would just end up making a big disaster," said marijuana advocate and 4/20 organizer Dana Larsen.

"Yesterday, we had another site meeting at Sunset Beach and we are committed to that place. And frankly Sunset Beach is a wonderful place for the event."

City council relented. Coun. Adriane Carr intended to put forward a motion that would have city staff find a new location for this year's 4/20 event but changed it before Wednesday's meeting so staff would focus on next year's event. That motion passed.

> **If it was any other kind of event, other than cannabis, they would be all over it.**
> Dana Larsen

But Carr says there are still concerns around having the event take place in a residential area like the West End, or near the Pacific National Exhibit (PNE). She says council received immediate feedback from East Vancouver residents when event organizers suggested PNE as an alternative to Sunset Beach.

"The city has to recognize (the event's) impact on neighbourhoods," said Carr.

"We heard loud and clear from people around the PNE area, for example, with a flood of emails into council that they were not happy with the idea it may be at the PNE."

But Larsen says it's either Sunset Beach or the PNE. He rejected suggestions that 4/20 could be held on one of the city's empty commercial or industrial lots.

"We don't want to be in a parking lot where there's concrete everywhere," he said, citing safety concerns around heat stroke as well as aesthetic concerns. Larsen wants 4/20 to be not only a permitted event, but also an event that has the city's full support.

"I find it kind of insulting. I think (the city) should be celebrating our event. We attract people all over the Lower Mainland and honestly, all over the world," he said.

"If it was any other kind of event, other than cannabis, they would be all over it."

SAFETY

Evacuation alert lifted in area where landslide killed four

Threats of a landslide have subsided in a tiny British Columbia community where four people died in 2012 after a wave of mud and trees swept down a creek.

An evacuation alert has been lifted for residents of Johnsons Landing in southeastern B.C.

The alert was issued Monday when the regional district received reports that Gar Creek was running muddy and boulders on a slope above had shifted.

Regional district spokeswoman Anitra Winje has said there was a small slide and flood, but both were minor and did not cause any damage or injuries. The regional district is now asking residents to remain vigilant and aware of Gar Creek's condition because spring melt and coming rain could bring more debris down its channel. The previous slide that claimed four lives also destroyed or damaged a number of homes in the community.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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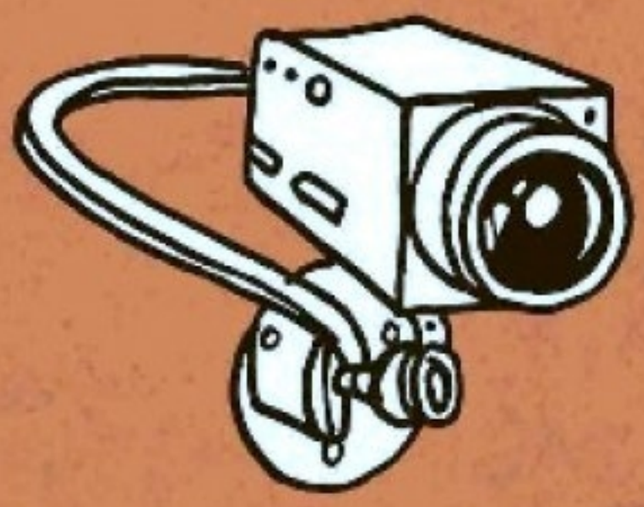

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Single-family homes, like these in Vancouver, are out of the reach of most Vancouverites now as house prices vastly outstripped incomes. JENNIFER GAUTHIER/METRO FILE

Cities unprepared for housing price shock

PANEL DISCUSSION

Unaffordability locks out even middle-class earners

Jen St. Denis
Metro | Vancouver

Metro Vancouver's municipal governments were just not prepared for the massive spike in housing and rent rates that hit the region starting in 2015, said the mayor of New Westminster during a panel discussion on the growing disconnect between housing costs and incomes.

"Although there have been a number of warning signs over the past decade and beyond that has led us to this point, we've kind of been sleepwalking into the challenge that we face," said Jonathan Cote at the event hosted by online publication The Tyee in New Westminster on March 29.

Last week, the City of Vancouver unveiled a new direction for housing that will include requiring developers of new buildings to include not just housing for low-income people, but for a wider range of income levels as housing unaffordability increasingly locks out even those with middle-class incomes.

The scheme, which is still under development but is modelled on a New York City policy, would involve income-testing residents to see whether they meet certain income bands.

New Westminster has been incentivizing construction of new rental buildings and trying to retain older buildings.

"The reality is that one form of housing is not going to solve the crisis we have right here," said Cote. "We can encourage policies that encourage more rental housing across the entire region, but that alone is not going to solve the challenge."

Panellist Irene Lanzinger, president of the BC Federation of Labour, emphasized the need to raise B.C.'s minimum wage to $15 an hour and urged businesses to adopt a living wage. Currently 500,000 British Columbians make $15 or less an hour, while the City of Vancouver has found that nearly half of the city's population makes less than $50,000 a year.

Emphasizing the link between housing and a city's workforce, William Azaroff, an executive with Vancity, said it's now difficult for the credit union to find tellers to staff branches in Vancouver's Westside, a neighbourhood that saw dramatic home price increases between 2015 and 2016 and where population decreased between 2011 and 2016.

The panellists touched on the issue of generational inequality, where the gains from home price increases have mostly benefited the baby boomer generation while locking younger people out of the housing market.

Azeroff referred to a Vancity research project that looked at alternate ways millennials could build equity without home ownership. "To be candid, they couldn't come up with much," he said.

Talking about how to increase supply for low-to-mid income earners is all very well — but at some point the discussion needs to include a more radical rethink of wealth redistribution, said Gordon Price, a former Vancouver city councillor and fellow at Simon Fraser University, following the talk.

"It has to be something that deals with that question of wealth, that deals with a change in neighbourhood scale, that deals with a change in taxation.

"I am a millionaire by breathing," Price said, referring to the baby boomer generation he himself belongs to, "and I'm going to get all this without capital gains tax?"

> **We can encourage policies that encourage more rental housing across the entire region, but that alone is not going to solve the challenge.** Jonathan Cote

Be cautious for coyote birthing season

WILDLIFE

Predators will eat garbage and prey on pets

Ashley Singh
For Metro | Vancouver

As coyotes prepare to birth pups this spring, the Stanley Park Ecology Society is encouraging people to secure their trash and keep their dogs on leashes as the coyotes set out to gather food for the arriving newborns.

According to Ecological Society's wildlife program co-ordinator Greg Hart, population densities for coyotes tend to be higher in cities due to food waste. During spring, Hart advises people to better manage food sources so coyotes can depend more on natural foods such as rats, mice, or squirrels.

"They're naturally shy and timid and we can keep it that way by the way we behave," he said. "You can minimize food sources near where we live, by cleaning up bird feeders, harvesting fruits and keeping our gardens tidy. Keeping our garbage secure goes a really long way to forcing coyotes to find natural food sources."

During breeding season coyotes tend to look for den locations to prepare for their young. These locations are usually hidden and secluded such as cemeteries, ravines, or golf courses.

"This time of the year is where they might act more defensive towards their pups and this is the only time of the year where they do use a den site. We do encourage, especially this time of the year, for people to put their dogs on a leash when they're out and keep cats indoors as much as possible," said Hart.

A coyote pup in Vancouver. GREG HART/ STANLEY PARK ECOLOGICAL SOCIETY

ANIMALS

Trophy hunters are showoffs: researcher

Matt Kieltyka
Metro | Vancouver

Why do men trophy hunt?

Mostly just to show off, according to a University of Victoria researcher.

Chris Darimont, the Hakai-Raincoast professor of geography at UVic, recently published an opinion piece in the peer-reviewed journal Biology Letters looking into the phenomenon of trophy hunting among men from the developed world.

Unlike ancient hunter-gatherers or people of certain cultures today — who hunt bigger, dangerous animals as a way of bettering their status in society, as a manhood ritual or to share their kills with the greater community for food and sustenance — Dairmont writes the modern-day, contemporary incarnation of trophy hunting is largely devoid of such benefits.

He adds that hunting big game for sport also lacks the risk factor it once did because of advanced technologies and methods used to kill the animals. Instead, the opinion piece answers "why do men trophy hunt?" by tying it to showing off and men showing how rich they are.

"Evidence for show-off behaviour appears clear," the piece reads. "Trophy hunters commonly pose for photographs with their prey, with the heads, hides and ornamentation prepared for display. "While rarely costly in terms of danger or difficulty, hunts for endangered species can be extraordinarily expensive.

> **Trophy hunters commonly pose for photographs with their prey.**
> Prof. Chris Darimont

"It is unclear what specifics benefits — other than increased status — might accrue to trophy hunters."

Darimont calls on more research looking into the motivations behind trophy hunting and how to discourage the practice.

He notes that social media boasting about trophy kills diminished after international backlash against U.S. dentist Walter Palmer for killing Cecil the lion in 2015.

A grizzly bear fishes for salmon along the Atnarko River in Tweedsmuir Provincial Park near Bella Coola, B.C. Saturday, Sept 11, 2010. THE CANADIAN PRESS/JONATHAN HAYWARD

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Fifty-year-old Ross Chafe, right, and Kelly Blunden, 53, were killed in May 2015 when a vehicle struck them while they were cycling on Highway 99 near Pemberton, B.C. FACEBOOK

Colonial history cited by defence

SENTENCING

Drunk driver's lawyer points to residential schools impact

The deep-rooted effects of Canada's residential school system must be considered in the sentencing of a drunk driver who killed three people after mowing down two cyclists on a British Columbia highway two years ago, the man's lawyer said Wednesday.

Crown counsel is asking that Samuel Alec be handed a 12-year sentence, which Alec's lawyer, Paul McMurray, said would be the longest ever given to someone responsible for impaired driving causing death in Canada.

Alec, 45, pleaded guilty to three counts of impaired driving causing the deaths of two cyclists, Kelly Blunden and Ross Chafe, as well as Paul Pierre, a friend of Alec's who was a passenger in the vehicle.

Twelve years is an unfit sentence, especially given the relationship between Alec's alcoholism and colonialism, McMurray told the court.

"In my submission, there is a direct, causal link between the offences that are before you and the experience of his First Nation, of alcohol abuse stemming from a residential school system," he said.

"The Crown asks you to do precisely what courts and judges have always done in Canada, and that is to lock up an aboriginal offender and throw away the key."

In an agreed statement of facts, the court heard how in May 2015, Alec was returning to his home in Lillooet along a winding mountain highway after a "lengthy binge of drinking" following a friend's funeral in Pemberton.

Prosecutor Adrienne Lee told the court Alec displayed a callous disregard for others, including failing to stop after nearly hitting another vehicle while passing it around a blind corner shortly before he struck the cyclists.

"This accused chose to drive while highly intoxicated on a challenging, popular, scenic, mountainous highway where he knew there would be other motorists and cyclists present," she said. "He had no business being on the road."

> There is a direct, causal link between the offences ... and the experience of his First Nation, of alcohol abuse stemming from a residential school system.
> Paul McMurray, Samuel Alec's lawyer

> The accused's record is significant and an aggravating factor and cries out for a need to protect the public.
> Prosecutor Adrienne Lee

Alec deserves a "significant sentence" partly because of his lengthy criminal record, which includes four impaired-driving infractions, as well as more than a dozen non-criminal instances of driving without a licence, Lee said.

"The accused's deliberate choice to drive has caused devastating and irreparable harm to the wives, the children, the grandchildren, the mothers, the fathers, the brothers, the sisters, aunts, uncles, cousins and friends of Paul Pierre, Kelly Blunden and Ross Chafe," she added.

"The accused's record is significant and an aggravating factor and cries out for a need to protect the public."

In addition to a 12-year prison sentence, minus about two years for time already served, the Crown is asking that Alec be barred from driving for 18 years. Alec was under several driving prohibitions at the time of the fatal collision, both from the courts and from the superintendent of motor vehicles.

McMurray asked that his client be sentenced to two years less a day, beyond the time he has already served, which would be followed by three years' probation.

A man in the public gallery yelled out "This is crazy" after McMurray made his sentencing recommendation.

Alec has been incarcerated since August 2015, though three months of that time was spent serving a sentence related to a separate conviction.

More than a dozen victim-impact statements were read from friends and family members of the three victims during the sentencing hearing.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

A woman walks by a voting spot during the 2014 municipal election in Vancouver. British Columbians are getting ready to head to the polls next month for the provincial election. METRO FILE

Don't count out youth: Advocate

ELECTION

Group argues young people aren't apathetic about politics

Wanyee Li
Metro | Vancouver

One student advocacy group is challenging the stereotype that young people are too apathetic to vote.

The provincial election is more than a month away but the Alliance of BC Students is already ramping up efforts to help millennials vote.

Youth (people aged 18 to 24) went to polling stations in droves during the most recent federal election, increasing voter turnout in that age category by 18 percentage points, according to Elections Canada.

The Alliance wants that trend to continue. It's clear that young people are not as apathetic as they are often portrayed to be, said chairman, Alex McGowan.

"The conversation has been changing around how to support young people in voting rather than trying to convince people why it's important to vote."

The 27-year old political science student at Kwantlen Polytechnic University says improving access to ballot boxes works much better than taking a condescending tone with young people.

"We don't need to tell people why it's important to vote. People know that," he said.

"We vote not due to a desire to personally influence it but because we are members of a community and we part of something bigger than just us."

But changing the message is not enough, he added. Getting that message out to young people means going to where they spend their time.

> The conversation has been changing around how to support young people. Alex McGowan

"More effective emails, more effective calls, and more effective use of social media," said McGowan, listing the myriad of ways campaigners can reach young people.

"That's really necessary because young people don't have cable. They don't listen to the radio. They don't see the traditional advertising that has been used to reach people."

On top of the change in messaging and the way that message is delivered, authorities need to understand people who are eligible to vote for the first time are often juggling a number of priorities for the first time in their lives.

"Young people are busy, balancing jobs and part-time jobs or full-time jobs on top of school," he said.

Mental health can also play a role. McGowan speaks to students often about what sways their decision to either vote or not vote and many suffer from 'imposter syndrome,' where people don't believe they are not knowledgeable enough to do the job.

But if you are 18 or older and have lived in B.C. for the past six months, then you are fit to vote, said McGowan.

He has a simple response to people who express hesitation or signs of imposter syndrome.

"Vote anyway because you're probably just as knowledgeable as an old person."

POLICE

Charges laid in highway shootings

RCMP say a man has been charged with attempted murder in connection with a shooting in Chilliwack as they investigate nearly two dozen truck shootings along three highways.

Police say in a news release that 38-year-old Peter Kampos remains in custody and is believed to be from Ontario.

The Mounties say they have received 22 reports of commercial trucks believed to have been shot at and one report involving a passenger vehicle.

Staff Sgt. Annie Linteau says the charge against Kamos relates to an early-afternoon shooting last Friday.

She says people should check for suspicious damage if they travelled last Friday along Highway 37 between Kitimat and Terrace, Highway 16 between Terrace and Prince George as well as Highway 97 from Prince George to 100 Mile House.

Linteau says anyone who may have been the victim of a suspicious incident should call their local police department.

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BC Housing defends deals

DEVELOPMENT

But NDP MLA David Eby has some questions for officials

Jen St. Denis
Metro | Vancouver

BC Housing has released documents related to two multimillion-dollar deals between the social-housing agency and private developers, but the NDP MLA who asked for the information says the documents do not show that the public got good value out of the arrangements.

The deals involved prominent donors to the BC Liberals: Wall Financial in one case and condo marketer Bob Rennie in the other.

"On both of these deals, the core principle to me that seems to have been violated is that there needs to be something additional that the public is getting that wouldn't otherwise have been done," David Eby said, such as additional units or deeper affordability.

In a March 28 technical briefing to reporters, BC Housing indicated that the agency's involvement in both deals resulted or will result in social housing delivered at a relatively low cost, and BC Housing lent its expertise in building low-income housing to the projects.

The briefing was on background and not for attribution, something else Eby finds curious.

"Nobody is willing to go on the record to defend these deals — why doesn't the CFO of BC Housing (Dan Maxwell) or (Housing Minister) Rich Coleman go on the record?"

The two deals were both complex transactions in which BC Housing provided very low-interest construction loans (BC Housing charges around one per cent interest on all of its construction loans, which are normally made to non-profit organizations to build social housing.)

As part of a deal with the City of Vancouver, Brenhill was obligated to build a social-housing building at Jubilee House at 1099 Richards St., left, before taking possession of land at 508 Helmcken St., right, where it planned to build a market condo tower. JENNIFER GAUTHIER/METRO

In the case of 288 E. Hastings St., Wall Financial assembled four lots on East Hastings Street. Wall went to BC Housing with an offer — BC Housing would buy the land for $6 million, Wall would be hired as the construction and development manager for around $1.5 million, and at the end of construction, BC Housing would sell a 50 per cent portion of the market rental units back to Wall, an arrangement BC Housing says will lower the overall cost of the project.

> **Nobody is willing to go on the record.**
> David Eby

BC Housing's low-interest financing also makes the units cheaper to build.

BC Housing also provided a $39-million construction loan to the project, which includes 35 welfare-rate units, 60 income-tested units rented at around $800 a month, and 68 market units rented at between $1,242-$1,972 a month. BC Housing got involved in the deal because the city's 60 per cent social housing, 40 per cent market housing requirement for the Downtown Eastside makes it difficult for for-profit developers to make projects financially feasible.

Eby doesn't agree. Wall had already gotten a very good deal on the land because of the restrictive zoning, he said, and so building less profitable low-income housing was "built into the price."

The other deal involves a land swap in Yaletown between Brenhill Developments and the City of Vancouver. As part of the swap, Brenhill was obligated to build a social-housing building (Jubilee House at 1099 Richards St.) before taking possession of land at 508 Helmcken St., where it planned to build a market condo tower.

BC Housing provided a $39-million construction loan for this project as well at just under one per cent interest, and also extended the loan for a six-month period after the new social housing building, New Jubilee House, was built.

The bridge financing, also at the low one per cent interest rate, covered the developer as the company looked for another market financer as condo presales began and progressed (it was fully paid back at the end of January).

As security for that bridge loan, BC Housing held a $39-million mortgage on the condo tower site and asked for regular updates on condo presales.

Condo marketer Bob Rennie, who has both donated to and raised funds for the BC Liberals, was on the board of BC Housing at the time of the deal. He is also the marketer for the Brenhill condo project.

Documents provided by BC Housing show he did recuse himself from a meeting where the financing was discussed.

But the minutes also show that Rennie was on the BC Housing board's capital committee, and the minutes for that particular committee have not been provided, Eby said.

He also noted that the minutes say that Rennie "brought forward (the financing proposal) for the board's review and approval."

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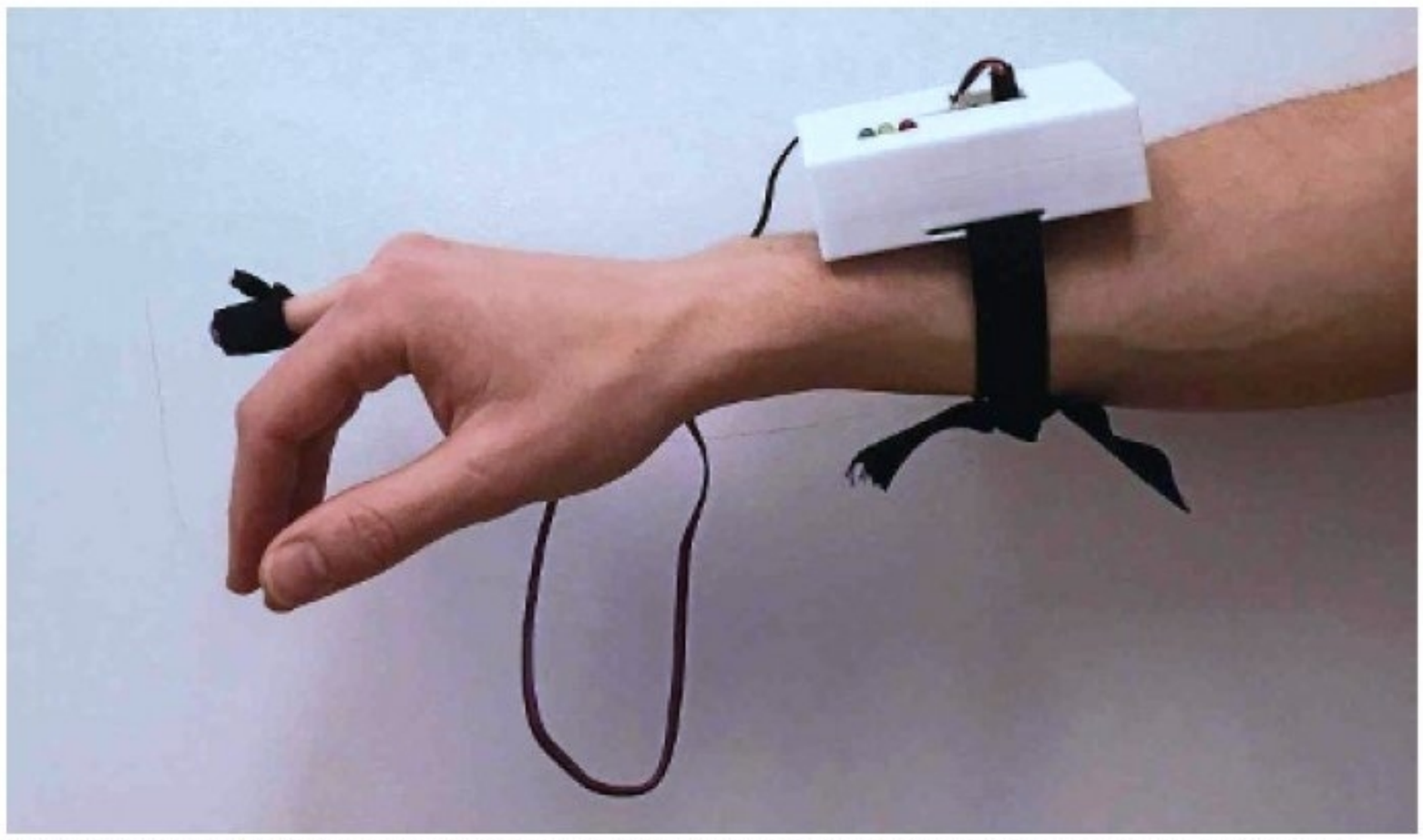

An early prototype of a device UBC students have created to detect drug overdoses. COURTESY SAMPATH SATTI/THE CANADIAN PRESS

UBC students craft overdose detector

OPIOID CRISIS

Device to be tested in the Downtown Eastside soon

A group of students at the University of British Columbia have turned to technology in an effort to address the opioid crisis by creating a wearable device they say can detect an overdose.

The six engineering, medical and design students wanted to focus on people who could overdose indoors, where others can't see or help them, said Sampath Satti, a biomedical engineering graduate student.

More than 900 people fatally overdosed across British Columbia last year. Free kits containing the overdose-reversing drug naloxone are available at hospitals, drop-in centres and shelters as part of an effort to save lives.

But people are still dying.

"The people who have naloxone kits and are trained to use them are not coming in frequent contact with the people who need to use them," Satti said.

The group has created a device that is worn on a person's wrist, with a wire connecting to a sensor on a fingertip, that can detect when a user has stopped moving and breathing.

Satti compared the technology to a fitness tracker that monitors a person's heart rate. The overdose detector would sound an alarm if a person's vital signs fall below a certain threshold.

> This is one of the first technological approaches towards the opioid process. Sampath Satti

The group has determined there's a window of about five or six minutes between when an overdose is detected and when someone can be saved, Satti said.

So far, team members have been testing the technology on themselves in a lab.

"The detection is actually quite promising. We can get a sufficiently good reading of the breathing rate when it's tested on ourselves," said Satti.

Next week, they plan to start working with an overdose prevention site in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside to collect more data and see if their methodology can be used reliably outside of a controlled environment.

Eventually, they'd like to create a version of the device that looks like a watch or a fitness tracker, without a fingertip sensor or any additional wires.

Satti said the aim is to produce the gadgets for about $30 each.

The technology isn't meant to replace other safe drug-consumption practices, he said.

"We don't want this device to give people false confidence to use alone," he said.

Satti said emergency room doctors, front-line workers and drug users have welcomed the invention. THE CANADIAN PRESS

ANIMALS

Investigations over dumped carcasses

The discovery of a rotting and mutilated calf carcass in a water-filled ditch east of Vancouver is the latest such case to raise concerns for the BC Dairy Association.

Spokesman Trevor Hargreaves says he found a carcass in a ditch in Mission on Tuesday and that a check of the area's five commercial dairy producers confirmed the animal was not linked to those operations.

> It's not acceptable industry practice in any capacity. Trevor Hargreaves

Hargreaves says several animals have been dumped in the same way in the Mission area and that investigations are underway by the SPCA and the Agriculture Ministry, which he says is doing a necropsy.

He says the ears of the recovered calf had been removed, making it difficult to trace the animal's history because most calves are identified by ear tags.

Police in southwestern Manitoba are investigating similar cases in which the remains of a goat, pony, three coyotes and a raccoon were recently found in ditches south of Brandon, and the goat's ears had been removed.

Hargreaves says the dumping of remains is unacceptable.

"You can't dispose of a rotting animal carcass in a body of water. It's not safe for the public; it's not acceptable industry practice in any capacity."

Dead farm animals should either be buried or sent to a rendering plant, he says, adding the actions of anyone dumping carcasses raise concerns about how other animals at the same farm are being treated.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Parents 'outraged' by how baby photo used

BABYGAGA.COM

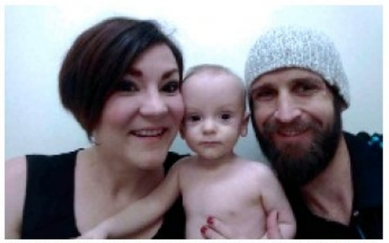
Shot of mother and son being used by site to 'fear monger'

Lucie Edwardson
Metro | Calgary

A Calgary couple is upset that a touching photo of the first moments their premature son was held by his mother has been used by a Canadian website to "fear monger."

Jessica Collinson gave birth to Hugo prematurely in 2015 and wasn't able to hold him until nearly 60 hours after the birth.

Mike Burritt, Collinson's partner and Hugo's dad, said the photo used by BabyGaga.com was actually a screenshot of a video Burritt submitted to Facebook group Love What Matters in 2015 that show Collinson "basically falling in love with our son" the first time she was able to hold him in the NICU.



Jessica Collinson, Hugo and Mike Burritt present day. Burritt says Hugo is happy and healthy and that they'd like his story to be used to inspire, not scare others. CONTRIBUTED

Burritt said since 2015 they have had the video under copyright with a media company and are usually informed of its use.

Further, he said it's not the fact that the video, or images from the video, are out in the public sphere, but that BabyGaga.com used them "totally out of context."

BabyGaga.com used an image from Burritt's video as the main photo for their article "15 Signs Mom-To-Be Might Go Into Preterm Labour."

"When I first saw it I was pretty outraged," he said. "After it went viral I knew it was out there — it was legitimately everywhere, and that doesn't bother us."

Burritt says it's the message of the article that upsets him.

"We wanted to use it to be inspiring and to show people what's possible and not use it as a scare tactic for pregnant women out there telling them they could have their baby early, and it doesn't appear to have any science backing it up," he said.

David Felicissimo who works for BabyGaga.com's parent company Valnet Inc., said they own some "very well known major online editorial brands" and have licenses with various partners including AP Images, USA Today Images, Shutterstock and Barcroft.

"I assure you we have stringent copyright policies in place," he said, adding that the video is visible on other "various news stories."

Californian cat found in Ontario

It's anyone's guess how BooBoo the cat travelled more than 3,000 kilometres from California to Canada, but its American owner says she can't wait to be reunited with her brown tabby, who went missing four years ago.

Ashley Aleman, from Watsonville, Calif., said her mother received a voicemail from a Canadian animal shelter two weeks ago, notifying them that BooBoo had been found alive and well in southern Ontario.

The 21-year-old said the outdoor cat went missing in 2013.

Melissa Stolz of the humane society in Guelph, Ont., said BooBoo was brought in as a stray earlier this month. Staff did a routine scan for a microchip, she said, and found one that led to BooBoo's owners in California.

"She came in in wonderful condition, she's been very well taken care of and had no problems at all," Stolz said. "So, clearly there was someone out there who was taking care of her."

Stolz said she first thought that the cat's owners had moved to Canada and forgot to update the microchip information, which she said happens all the time. "After we discovered the owners are still in California, then we started to wonder what could have happened," Stolz said.

Aleman's mother will be flying to Buffalo, N.Y., on Friday to meet with a Canadian animal protection officer who will drive the cat to the border.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

BooBoo the cat travelled more than 3,000 kilometres from California to Canada. CONTRIBUTED ASHLEY ALEMAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Nature puts on light show

ASTRONOMY

Better-than-normal chance to see aurora borealis now

Canadians may be treated to an unexpected light show this week, according to the Weather Network.

In a Twitter moment posted on Tuesday, the Weather Network said "all of Canada has a chance to see the Aurora Borealis."

"If you have clear skies over the next few nights, try to get outside and somewhere dark," the Twitter moment read.

People from across Canada, ranging from Strathmore, Alta., to Prince Albert, Sask., to Thunder Bay, Ont., posted photos on Twitter of the northern lights, which were visible Monday night.

And the aurora borealis could be visible as far south as the Great Lakes, according to the Weather Network.

The northern lights "appear as a result of activity on the sun's surface," according to Randy Attwood, executive director for The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada.

An aurora painted across the sky during a night excursion with Northern Tales Travel Services. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

> Why not take the opportunity to go out and look at the skies? It's a very rare event. Rachel Ward-Maxwell

"It releases highly energetic particles through its solar winds which interact with our magnetic field and atmosphere," Rachel Ward-Maxwell, a researcher-programmer in astronomy and space sciences with the Ontario Science Centre said.

"If the sun is particularly active that can result in a spectacular light show for us."

This week's light show is because of a crack in the sun's atmosphere known as a coronal hole, according to Yvette Cendes, a PhD student in astronomy at the University of Toronto.

For the best chance of seeing the lights in the next few days, Torontonians should head north of the city, Ward-Maxwell said. At least half an hour should be set aside for ones eyes to adjust to the darkness, and "even if (the northern lights) are visible, they will likely be very faint."

This allows for more particles to "stream through than usual, triggering the northern lights."

"For the next few days, the hole is pointed towards Earth but as the sun rotates, it's going to be rotated somewhere else, not directly at us," Cendes said.

"The lights will likely look green in colour," Ward-Maxwell said.

"Why not take the opportunity to go out and look at the skies? It's a very rare event. Most people don't get the opportunity to see it," Ward-Maxwell said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

COURT

Another cabbie charged

Haley Ryan
Metro | Halifax

The credibility and drinking habits of a young woman involved in a taxi sexual assault case were called into question Wednesday, although the Crown said any inconsistencies on "minute details" were understandable, and the case is not about whether she was intoxicated.

Saher H. Hamdan appeared at Halifax provincial court for a day-long sexual assault trial, related to events from July 15, 2016. The court heard Hamdan picked up the young woman and drove her to a friend's house in Halifax, where the complainant said Hamdan told her the payment system was down and needed to be re-started, offered her a cigarette, touched her leg a few times without her consent, reached between her legs to pull a latch and slide back her seat, she heard the door lock, and he asked if he could kiss her, before her friend tapped on the window and she left the car.

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FOCUS ON FAMINE

DAY 4: South Sudan

A South Sudanese girl, Elizabeth Kegi, receives treatment at Al Shabbab Hospital in Juba, South Sudan.
GETTY IMAGES

'We can't afford to be hopeless'

Members of the South Sudanese diaspora in Canada watch the world's youngest country descend into abyss.

Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

There are times when Emmanuela Bringi switches into panic mode — like when phone lines are cut off and she's unable to reach her relatives in South Sudan.

"You're always fearing the worst," said Bringi, a South Sudanese-Canadian in London, Ont. She's especially concerned about her wheelchair-bound grandmother who has diabetes and lives on her own in a country ravaged by constant interethnic conflict and a famine crisis.

"She can't even get access to health care because there are no clinics," she said, adding that many others have died from lack of health care and food. "It has become so normal to hear people talk about losing a family member, as if death is something that's just supposed to happen. It's not."

The United Nations has already declared a full-blown famine in two counties in Unity State, and nearly two-thirds of the country's entire population is food insecure. The situation is a direct result of the long-standing conflict that has killed thousands and forced nearly four million people out of their homes, making them unable to work the fields or tend to cattle.

> **They need to stop the fighting.**
> Amanie Aman

Even humanitarian intervention isn't spared. Just last weekend, six aid workers were killed in an ambush outside the capital city of Juba. Since 2013, at least 79 aid workers have lost their lives in South Sudan, according to the UN.

As they watch the world's youngest country descend into abyss, members of the South Sudanese diaspora in Canada are running campaigns to contribute to relief efforts.

"Our morale is down but we can't afford to be hopeless," said Joseph Kau, a student in Toronto struggling to send remittances to his two sisters and a brother in the country's south.

Toronto-based pop singer and model Amanie Aman, whose family came to Canada in the 1990s, believes the best solution to the famine lies in ending the chronic circle of violence.

"They need to stop the fighting," she said of President Salva Kiir and his main archrival Riek Machar. "That's when they'll be able to allocate proper funds towards actually feeding the people and allowing help and aid to come in."

BY THE NUMBERS | SOUTH SUDAN

$298.8 million / **$1.6 billion**
Total funds raised so far / Funds required to avert a famine

1 out of 2
South Sudan has a population of 11.3 million. Of those, **5.8 million people are food insecure** and need humanitarian aid

100,000
People already suffering from famine

SOURCE: UN OFFICE FOR THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS

HOW YOU CAN HELP

The South Sudanese diaspora across the country are leading efforts to collect funds and donate.

- **South Sudanese community in the GTHA** will hold a fundraising event on May 20, at Howard Johnson Hotel in Kitchener. unicef.ca/stopthefamine
- **Action Against Hunger** runs emergency food and nutrition programs inside South Sudan, plus some interventions on livelihoods and water and sanitation. To get involved or donate, visit actioncontrelafaim.ca/donate
- **World Vision** is the biggest implementing partner of the World Food Program in East Africa. Private donations can be made at worldvision.ca

ABOUT THIS SERIES

Metro is chronicling the story through the lens of immigrants from the affected countries, with a focus on how people can get involved.

Monday Vicky Mochama on how Canada can step up its interventions.

Tuesday Focus on Somalia, and how this could be worse than 2011.

Wednesday Yemen, and the role of war in the ongoing famine.

Thursday The situation in South Sudan, the world's youngest country.

Friday Nigeria, with views from diaspora members and a local expat.

READ THIS SERIES FROM THE BEGINNING
metronews.ca

U.K. files for divorce

BREXIT

It's Not EU, it's me: Britain leaving after 44 years

Britain filed for divorce from the European Union on Wednesday, with fond words and promises of friendship that could not disguise the historic nature of the schism — or the years of argument and hard-nosed bargaining ahead as the U.K. leaves the embrace of the bloc for an uncertain future as "global Britain."

Prime Minister Theresa May triggered the two-year divorce process in a six-page letter to EU Council President Donald Tusk, vowing that Britain will maintain a "deep and special partnership" with its neighbours in the bloc. In response, Tusk told Britain: "We already miss you."

52%

Percentage of Britons that voted to leave the EU nine months ago

Anti-Brexit demonstrators at Downing Street in London on Wednesday after Britain invoked Article 50 to start the process of withdrawal from the EU. GETTY IMAGES

May's invocation of Article 50 of the EU's key treaty sets the clock ticking on two years of negotiations until Britain becomes the first major nation to leave the union — as Big Ben bongs midnight on March 29, 2019.

The U.K.'s departure could not come at a worse time for the EU, which has grown from six founding members six decades ago to a vast, largely borderless span of 28 nations and half a billion people. Nationalist and populist parties are on the march across the continent in revolt against the bloc's mission of "ever-closer union."

"This is an historic moment from which there can be no turning back," May told lawmakers in the House of Commons, moments after her letter was hand-delivered to Tusk in Brussels by Britain's ambassador to the EU, Tim Barrow. May said the two sides should "engage with one another constructively and respectfully."

"The European Union is a historically unique success story," German Chancellor Angela Merkel said in Berlin. "It remains one even after Britain's withdrawal."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TERROR

Remembering victims of the London attack

Police officers, Muslim youths and hundreds of others linked hands Wednesday on Westminster Bridge to honour the four people who died in an attack that started on the span a week earlier.

The bridge fell silent at 2:40 p.m. to mark the moment when Khalid Masood began mowing down pedestrians, killing three. Masood then fatally stabbed a policeman in a courtyard on the grounds of Parliament.

Police say Masood, a native Briton, was inspired by extremist ideology but that there's no evidence he had direct links to Daesh or al-Qaida.

Schoolchildren clutching yellow roses held signs reading, "Islam says no to terror" and "Please don't kill innocent people."

The commemoration came as an inquest opened into the deaths of American tourist Kurt Cochran, 54, retired window cleaner Leslie Rhodes, 75, school administrator Aysha Frade, 44, and Keith Palmer, 48.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ITALY

Women could get paid menstrual leave

The Italian parliament is considering a bill that, if approved, would require employers to grant women three days of paid leave every month, according to the Washington Post.

To qualify for menstrual leave, the Post said, women would need a certificate from a medical specialist. The bill says that between 60 and 90 per cent of women suffer from painful periods.

Critics worry it might deter companies from hiring women.

"The demand for female employees among companies might decrease, or women could be further penalized both in terms of salary and career advancement," said Daniela Piazzalunga, an economist at the Research Institute for the Evaluation of Public Policies.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Sunday, April 30	10:00 am-6:00 pm

Home sellers turn down highest bid

HOUSING

Family get house with $150,000 off

Joo-Meng and Rosanna Soh and their four children outside their new home in Oakville, Ont. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

How much is enough when it comes to selling a home in the Toronto area's scorched-earth real estate market?

For Michelle Croft and her husband, it turned out that enough was about $150,000 less than the highest of the 14 offers on their Oakville house last Thursday.

"Greed is good" was a solid premise for the 1987 movie Wall Street, but it doesn't make for a great life, Croft said from Colorado, where she and her husband have relocated.

They wanted to sell to a family that would cherish the neighbours and the community that had been the base for what Croft called their 15-year Canadian adventure.

They found those buyers in an email attached to an offer from Joo-Meng and Rosanna Soh, who had made the unusual decision to downsize with their four children aged 9 to 14.

After six weeks of missionary work in Uganda last year, "We came home changed. We find ourselves looking at things differently," they wrote.

"Part of our goal is not just becoming mortgage free but also allowing us to work less and to have more available time to go on mission trips," Joo-Meng said.

The education therapist and her physician husband call their move a journey of faith. They are trading a 3,600-square-foot home for 1,983 square feet.

Both realtors involved in the transaction say they have been heartened by the experience.

"I have faith in humanity again" said the Crofts' agent, Tracy Nursall of Sage Real Estate.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

150 WAYS of looking at Canada

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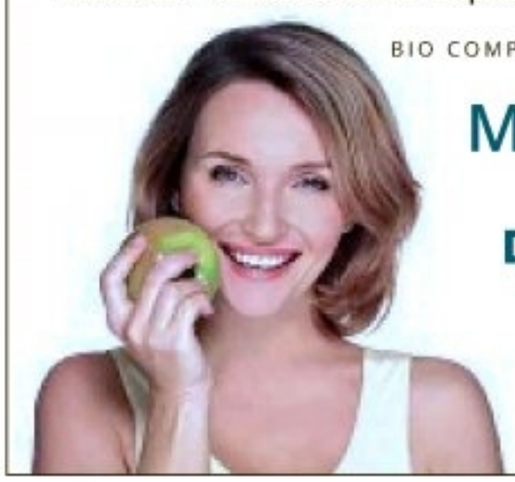

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Safe Space

CHANTAL HÉBERT ON THE TORIES' LEADERSHIP RACE

There is little doubt that the choice of a polarizing leader, one who is unloved by his caucus to boot, would shrink the Conservative tent to the Liberals' advantage.

Now that deadline has passed for Conservative rivals to sign up new members for the May leadership vote, here are a handful of observations on the fluid state of play in the battle for Stephen Harper's succession:

1. There are still 14 names on the Conservative ballot, but a consensus is emerging that the must-watch list is down to five. That may be a generous number. The names on the list are Kevin O'Leary, Maxime Bernier, Kelly Leitch, Erin O'Toole and Andrew Scheer.

For different reasons and to varying degrees, the first three are polarizing figures whose signature policies divide the party and have moderate appeal, to put it mildly, within the caucus of 97 MPs.

O'Leary and Bernier are the presumed front-runners.

But they may not be the second or third choice of enough Conservatives to go the distance.

That is even more true of Leitch. You either like her Trump-style approach to immigration issues a lot or dislike it intensely. There is no middle ground

O'Toole and Scheer are locked in a battle to be the fallback candidate. That battle has been picking up speed over the past few weeks.

2. Harper's succession could have turned into a battle-by-proxy between the two factions that resumed their cohabitation within a reunified Conservative party over his decade in power. The old divide between former Tories and ex-Reformers could have resurfaced over the yearlong leadership campaign.

O'Leary and Bernier are the presumed front-runners.

That is not happening.

Or, at least, it is not happening in a defining way.

None of the presumed front-runners has emerged as a stalking horse for one or other of the two factions. If anything, some of the leading figures on both sides of the Conservative schism of the recent past are looking beyond the front-runners for a possible successor to Harper.

OLD WOUNDS The race to replace Stephen Harper has not brought back the divide between former Tories and supporters of the Reform Party, Chantal Hébert writes. (Clockwise from top left: Kellie Leitch, Kevin O'Leary, Maxime Bernier, Erin O'Toole).
THE CANADIAN PRESS, METROLAND NEWS SERVICE

From his new niche as Alberta's Tory leader, Jason Kenney used an editorial board meeting with Postmedia this week to warn Conservative members against O'Leary. He says the reality-TV star is unqualified to lead the federal party.

On Tuesday, former Progressive Conservative leader Peter MacKay showed up at a fundraising event for Ontario MP Erin O'Toole.

Neither Kenney nor MacKay has had a kind word for the identity-driven immigration policies promoted by Leitch.

3. If it were up to the Conservative caucus, neither O'Leary, nor Bernier (nor Leitch) would succeed Harper. A majority of Quebec MPs have declined to back Bernier. Most of them oppose his bid to end supply management in the dairy industry and his contention that the federal government should not have helped the auto industry at the time of the global economic crisis or, more recently, aerospace giant Bombardier.

In the battle for caucus endorsements, O'Toole and Scheer have the leading roles. Whether that will help either of them bridge the distance from second to the top tier is an open question. But, for many MPs, the choice at this juncture seems to hinge on which of those second-tier candidates has the best chance of coming up the middle.

4. As they watch part of the Conservative establishment scramble to prevent O'Leary from parlaying his celebrity status into the leader's job, the Liberals and the NDP have no cause to be smug about their own selection process. They are not immune to an O'Leary-style stunt.

At least the Conservatives, by giving each riding equal weight in the leadership vote, have some safeguards in place to make it harder for a social media rock star to turn his or her following into a flood of supporters.

The New Democrats elect their leader through the universal suffrage of their members, without distinction of region or riding. It is not necessary to become a full-fledged party member to participate in a Liberal leadership vote. It is enough to be a sympathizer.

Under a straight one-member-one vote leadership formula, O'Leary, whose main asset in this campaign has been name recognition, might have a bigger lead on the competition than he does under the weighted Conservative process.

5. There is little doubt that the choice of a polarizing leader, one who is unloved by his caucus to boot, would shrink the Conservative tent to the Liberals' advantage.

Anyone who covered the near-implosion of the Canadian Alliance under Stockwell Day 15 years ago has first-hand knowledge of the perils of electing a leader who is not equipped to command or keep the respect of his or her caucus.

Chantal Hébert is a national affairs writer. Her column appears in Metro every Thursday.

How to talk to a black woman at work in 12 easy steps

Vicky Mochama
Metro

U.S. Congresswoman Maxine Waters was doing one of her "The president is a lying nepotist who is running a kleptocracy and he has got to go" speeches. Upon hearing this gospel, Fox News host Bill O'Reilly was struck dumb, because he then said a dumb thing: "I didn't hear a word she said. I was looking at the James Brown wig."

You're not going to disrespect a black woman without hearing about it, no sir. O'Reilly's comment inspired the #BlackWomenAtWork hashtag. Scrolling through, it was clear that so many bosses, colleagues and clients don't know how to talk to professional black women.

To help fix racism, I have put together a handy guide for them.

HOW TO TALK TO A BLACK WOMAN AT WORK

1. Ask about her hair.
2. Ask if the hair on her head belongs to her.
3. During work hours, ask if she washes her hair.
4. Use relatable and evocative language to describe to her the texture of her own hair. For example, "It feels like horsehair," and "It's like a rope."
5. Be sure to compliment her by saying – no, insisting – that she looks so different now that she's changed a tenth of her body that you didn't even recognize her! Say something like, "I see you almost every day but you are unrecognizable now that you have done a new thing with the top of your head." She will be thrilled her efforts have been recognized.
6. Be culturally aware by speaking to her on issues that matter to her. For example, her hair and how it has changed recently.
7. Build bridges with your colleague by running your hands through her hair. It's the personal touch that matters.
8. Hire a second one. You can't mistake two distinctly different black women for each other if you only have one!
9. When you mistake her for the other black woman at work, she will be comforted to know that you "meant the other one."
10. Now that there are two of them, it may seem as if they are only interested in talking to you about hair. Get to know your black female colleagues more during informal conversations about Africa, basketball, Barack Obama and that time you saw someone who might have been Denzel Washington but wasn't.
11. Help them (Fatima and Gloria? Gladys and Phyllis? It's an F-sound and a G-sound…) with their careers! Point them to opportunities suited to their skills, like typing courses. More advanced opportunities like travelling for work should be saved for Robert Windingfield, the intern who could really use the experience.
12. When Flora and Galadriel (confirm with HR) complain you've promoted Robert while they have Master's degrees, disarm with charm by saying, "Hey, girl, heyyyy. Love your hair, my woes."

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Oscar accountants won't be allowed to have cellphones backstage, says Cheryl Boone Isaacs

Bad boy Hynes takes us home

CANLIT

Author's new novel is set in Newfoundland, a place he loves

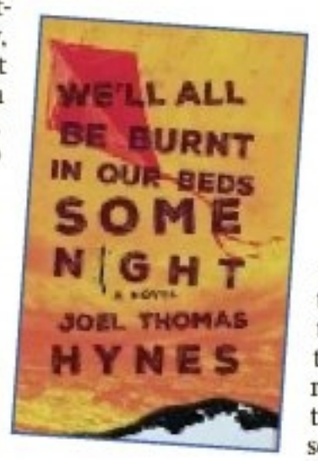
Sue Carter
For Metro Canada

For a good chunk of the year, Joel Thomas Hynes lives in a flat in Toronto's Beaches neighbourhood. Here he is close to his teenage son, actor Percy Hynes White, and to his own acting work on film and television, for shows like Eyewitness and Orphan Black.

But come mid-May, the itch hits and the author heads for the road back home to Newfoundland. Except for last year, when he was already on the ferry, and got a call for a last-minute gig back in Ontario.

"When you come from Newfoundland, which has a small population, the industries are not huge so there's only so far you can go. You can't just be one thing in Newfoundland," says the multi-talented Hynes, who is also a filmmaker, musician and a playwright.

Right now, Hynes is taking a break in Dallas to chaperone Percy, who was cast in the new Marvel X-Men television series. But when he arrives back on the Rock, Hynes gets on his motorcycle and heads to his small house in the woods. "Newfoundlanders always have a tendency to go home. We have a very fierce relationship with the island," he says. Hynes craves the solitude, which suits his needs as a writer. "I live a very, very simple quiet existence for a couple months, then I go back to the big city."



Since his first novel, 2004's Down to the Dirt, Hynes has gained an international reputation as a bad boy of Canadian literature, thanks to his tough, violent protagonists, all anti-heroes with a predilection for booze, drugs and destructive relationships. His new book, We'll All Be Burnt in Our Beds Some Night, remains in the milieu of his other novels, recognizable for its immersive colloquial language and darkly comic situations (an accidental hot tub enema is most memorable). Here, Johnny Keough is awaiting trial for the assault of his girlfriend, Madonna, who he claims ran into a teapot he was holding while making "a run at him." When Madonna doesn't appear at court — turns out she was the victim of an unrelated fatal accident — a heartbroken Johnny takes off on a road trip to British Columbia to scatter her ashes on what he believes was her favourite beach (even if he doesn't exactly remember its name).

Although this novel marks the first time one of Hynes' protagonists has ventured off the island, Newfoundland is still the book's beating heart. Hynes observes a small, raw slice of a culture that won't appear in tourism ads or Broadway musicals, but one that is universal to hardscrabble small-town life. Hynes says this book was his toughest challenge to date and admits that in the past he's received pressure to try a different style or setting to avoid a reputation as a "regional writer." But, despite the book's travelling narrator, he hasn't backed down.

"Why can't I have Newfoundland and set my writing in a place that I love?

Hynes may not be done with writing about home, but he does believe that Johnny may be the last of his badass characters.

"The story is not autobiographical, though elements certainly are, and I maintain it's emotionally true," he says. "I figure I'm not in it to make millions, I'm in it to communicate what is true to me and a lot of themes and issues that have come up in my own life — family, destruction, man versus the all-powerful state — remain important to me on some level. But I think as a fiction writer, I've gotten it out of my system."

Sue Carter is the editor at Quill & Quire magazine.

Multi-talented artist Joel Thomas Hynes sets his novel in a place he loves: Newfoundland, he says of his new book, We'll All Be Burnt in Our Beds Some Night. CONTRIBUTED

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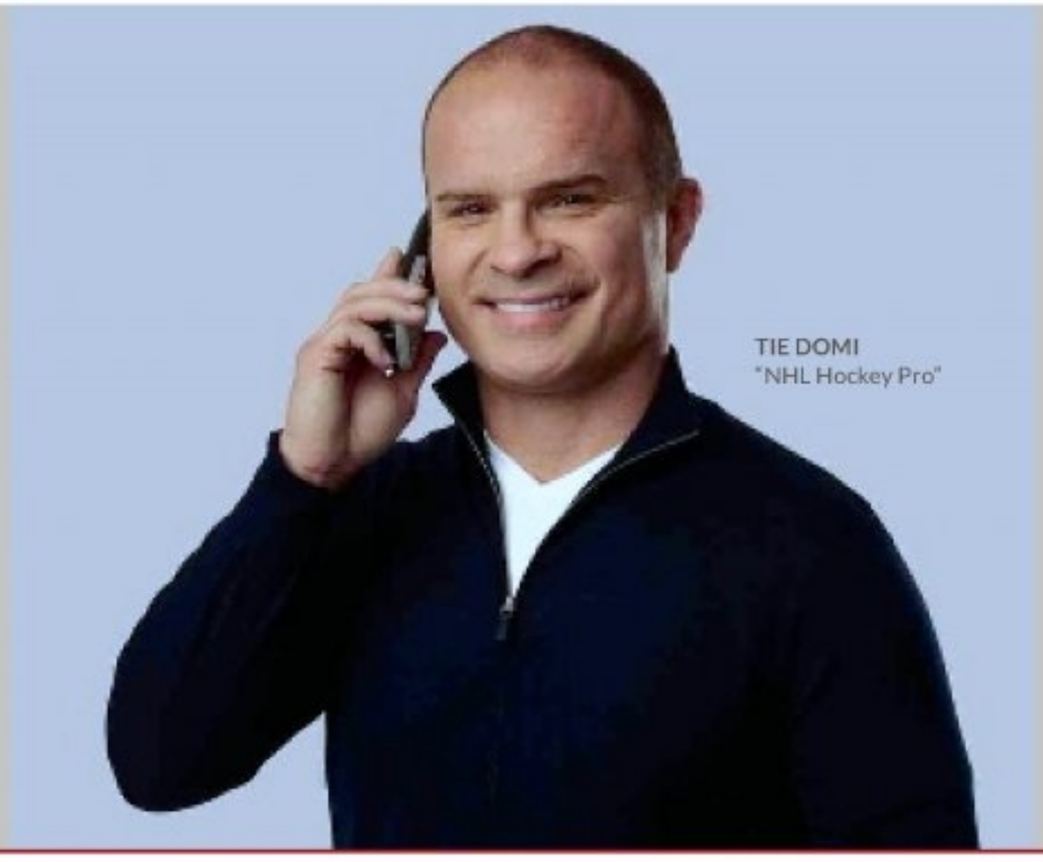

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INTERVIEW

Women of a certain vintage

Lily Tomlin, left, and Jane Fonda, star in Grace and Frankie, which is now in its third season. AP

The message of Grace and Frankie is: There's life after 70.

And also your own brand of vibrator, according to this Netflix comedy's just-released new season.

Jane Fonda and Lily Tomlin press on as the title characters whose longtime husbands (played by Martin Sheen and Sam Waterston) abruptly left them for each other at the series' inception.

"When our law-partner husbands tell us they've been having an affair for 20 years, we're bereft and cast adrift," says Tomlin.

"What happens when you're in your late 70s and the rug is pulled out from under you?" poses Fonda.

The answer they and their show are promoting: "There can be a third act that's pretty robust and pretty fun," as Fonda puts it. "Don't write us off just because we're over the hill. 'Cause there's a lot of other hills still to come that are pretty exciting."

As the third season begins, the often-fractious friendship shared by uptight Grace and free-spirited Frankie has steered them into marketing a product designed to meet the special needs of women of their vintage. It's a vibrator with thoughtfully large-print directions and a swiveling head that won't aggravate the user's carpal tunnel syndrome or arthritis. Its brand name: Menage a Moi.

Thus does Grace and Frankie, between generous laughs, continue to explore growing older while thumbing its nose at Father Time.

Fonda and Tomlin (today hale and hearty at, respectively, 79 and 77) are the best advertisements for what the series is about. They first worked together in a certain hit film nearly four decades ago.

Fonda had attended a live performance by Tomlin "and I fell in love with her. I was preparing a movie called 9 to 5 that was kind of serious. But after I saw her show, I thought, 'I CAN'T do a movie about secretaries if Lily Tomlin isn't one of them.' And we had to totally redo the movie so it was funny."

Tomlin says she came to the project "totally in awe" of Fonda, and, referring to Fonda's Oscar-winning performance in the 1971 thriller Klute, confides, "I had already worn a Klute hairdo for a couple of years."

With their on-screen reunion for Grace and Frankie, Fonda says Tomlin, once again, is "good for me to be around. I come from a long line of depressed people, and Lily's humour is right close to the surface. I tend to depression, and she finds laughter in everything. We have fun together."

Even so, the series presents challenges.

In the first season, Fonda unexpectedly identified with the abandonment issues her character was going through. "It kind of shatters" Grace, she says, and "it did for me, Jane, as well. It triggered something in me. It was really hard to be playing somebody going through that."

Thinking back on it seems to bring Fonda to the brink of tears.

Or not, she argues with a smile. "I just have something in my eyes."

And there are other demands besides the emotional. Like "working 16 hours a day when you're almost 80," Fonda says. "And we have to be learning our lines. Some of us," she adds with a comically knowing eye in Tomlin's direction, "have QUITE a challenge that way."

"I have NO problem learning lines!" Tomlin chortles. "She is just so full of it!"

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Facing the wrath of Witherspoon

Nova Scotia's James Tupper and Zoe Kravitz star in HBO's hit series Big Little Lies. CONTRIBUTED

BIG LITTLE LIES

Canadian says being on set is like big leagues of TV

Nova Scotia native James Tupper says being among the group of A-list stars on HBO's hit Big Little Lies is the best thing that's happened to his career.

Tupper plays the easygoing ex-husband to Reese Witherspoon's acerbic character in the darkly comedic murder mystery, which creator-writer David E. Kelley based on Liane Moriarty's bestselling novel.

Other cast members on the limited series, which follows the complicated lives of three mothers after a murder in the seaside town of Monterey, Calif., include Nicole Kidman, Shailene Woodley, Laura Dern, Zoe Kravitz, Alexander Skarsgard and Adam Scott.

Tupper says Witherspoon slyly established the bitter chemistry between their characters, who share custody of their daughter, before the cameras even started rolling.

"She was like, 'Hi, James,' she was very pejorative, a bit caustic," he says with a laugh.

"So we would get into the scenes and we'd do them and at the very end she opened up to me in this lovely way, because she's such a sweet and earnest and open person, and we ended up now having a friendship.

"But the whole time we were doing it I wasn't quite sure. I was like, 'Uh, hi, Reese.'"

The show is making headlines for its realistic portrayal of domestic violence, based on a storyline involving the characters played by Kidman and Skarsgard.

"You get a chance to delve into the psychology and that's one of the things I'm probably proudest of," says Tupper.

"If you get to participate with a group of artists and make something that's really truthful, that's about the highest you can go, in my opinion. They don't skim the surface.... It's really gnarly."

Tupper credits a fellow Canadian — Quebec's Jean-Marc Vallee, who directs the show — with giving him the opportunity.

"I'll always be a small-town boy from Dartmouth, Nova Scotia," he says from Los Angeles, noting his East Coast family is practically speechless over his success on the show.

"But just to be in that group of names is obviously the best thing that's happened to my entire career. When you get up to that level, I call it the NBA level, like the top level — everybody is very, very good at their job and very open about working with people. They want the thing to work and they're supportive and give it every reason to succeed."

The former star of Men in Trees, Revenge and Aftermath says Vallee was his advocate from the beginning when he auditioned for the role of Nathan on Big Little Lies..

"Jean-Marc is one of the most open and giving human beings and I feel like when I went in and auditioned for this, he was one of the really big reasons I got it," says Tupper.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

If you get to participate with a group of artists and make something that's really truthful, that's about the highest you can go, in my opinion.

Actor James Tupper on the show's harrowing depiction of domestic abuse

metro HOME

Your essential daily news

TLC announces popular home renovation show Trading Spaces will return in 2018

MEET THE CONDO

The pinnacle of West Coast living

CONTRIBUTED

Project overview

Eton by Polygon is a collection of one, two and three bedroom homes in University of British Columbia's residential neighbourhood. Featuring 193 residences and work by Francl Architecture, it is situated in the award-winning community of Wesbrook Village. Remaining units begin at $928,000.

Housing amenities

Residents of Eton have the Wesbrook Community Centre a few blocks away, a 30,000 square foot space with a gymnasium, fitness centre and spaces for community classes of all kinds. Interiors feature open floorplans with custom natural wood cabinetry in the kitchen and spa-inspired ensuites for the bathrooms.

Location and transit

UBC is a hub of activity for students, meaning plenty of transit options with buses available throughout all hours of the day. Those with automobiles can reach downtown Vancouver, East Vancouver and South Vancouver in under 20 minutes.

In the neighbourhood

Families can enjoy everything they need in the immediate area, with K-12 schools and the internationally-renowned UBC, grocery stores and a plethora of leisure activities. It's also steps from Pacific Spirit National Park, one of the top city green spaces.

NEED TO KNOW

What: Eton
Builder/Developer: Polygon Development
Designer: Francl Architecture
Location: University of British Columbia
Building: 20-storey residential
Model: One, two and three bedrooms
Sizes: Remaining units starting at 891 square feet
Pricing: From $928,000
Status: Selling
Occupancy: Fall/winter 2018
Sales centre: 5696 Berton Ave.
Phone: (604) 221-8598
Website: polyhomes.com/community/eton

DESIGN

Clear favourite: Acrylics a versatile furniture option

Clear the way for acrylics. Furniture makers are using the see-through material for everything from couch legs and bed posts to tables and footstools.

Acrylic is ideal for small rooms because it doesn't make the space look or feel crowded, said Sheila Schmitz, an editor with Houzz, an online source of interior design photos and decorating ideas.

"It can be a functional piece that doesn't add visual clutter," she said.

The pieces are lighter, stronger and less expensive than glass, said Tara Donovan, style director at Wayfair, an online home goods store. "It's more malleable and easy to work with, so it can be worked into more shapes," she said.

Clear furniture also can make small spaces feel more open and inviting, said Karen Mills, an interior designer with Interiors by Design, Inc., in Lenexa, Kansas. "It's lighter and brighter," she said. "It bounces that light around."

Even something as simple as an acrylic chair can make a statement, as designer Philippe Starck proved more than a decade ago with his Ghost Chair — a clear replica of the classic Louis XV armchair, Mills said. The chair helped launch the resurgence in acrylic furniture, she said.

Now, you can find clear chairs to fit any room. Add a vibrant cushion and clear chairs — along with benches and footstools — can become a centerpiece, said Mills. "When you put fabric on it, it just looks like it's floating. It adds a touch of fantasy," she said.

Acrylic really shines when accessorized with pops of colour and texture, agreed Emily Arnow, editor at AllModern.com, an online furniture store. "It's there, but not really there, so it's a great complement to bolder pieces," she said.

Clear legs on couches, chairs and cabinets can "create a look of suspended animation," said Michelle Lamb, editorial director with The Trend Curve, an industry observer in Eden Prairie, Minn. "It may take you a second or two to realize what's going on. Once you figure it out, you can't stop looking at it."

Or if you prefer, the pieces can take a backseat to other furnishings in the room. "You're getting the function without taking up much visual space," said Donovan.

Designers often use acrylic when they want to highlight another element in the room, she said. Clear tables are a way to accentuate beautiful carpets, she said. Whereas clear chairs will not detract from an ornate desk or a dining table.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A gold and acrylic bed by Bernhardt Furniture Company. CONTRIBUTED

How to make a tiny condo that works

HOUSING

Researcher constructs 230-square-foot home in lab

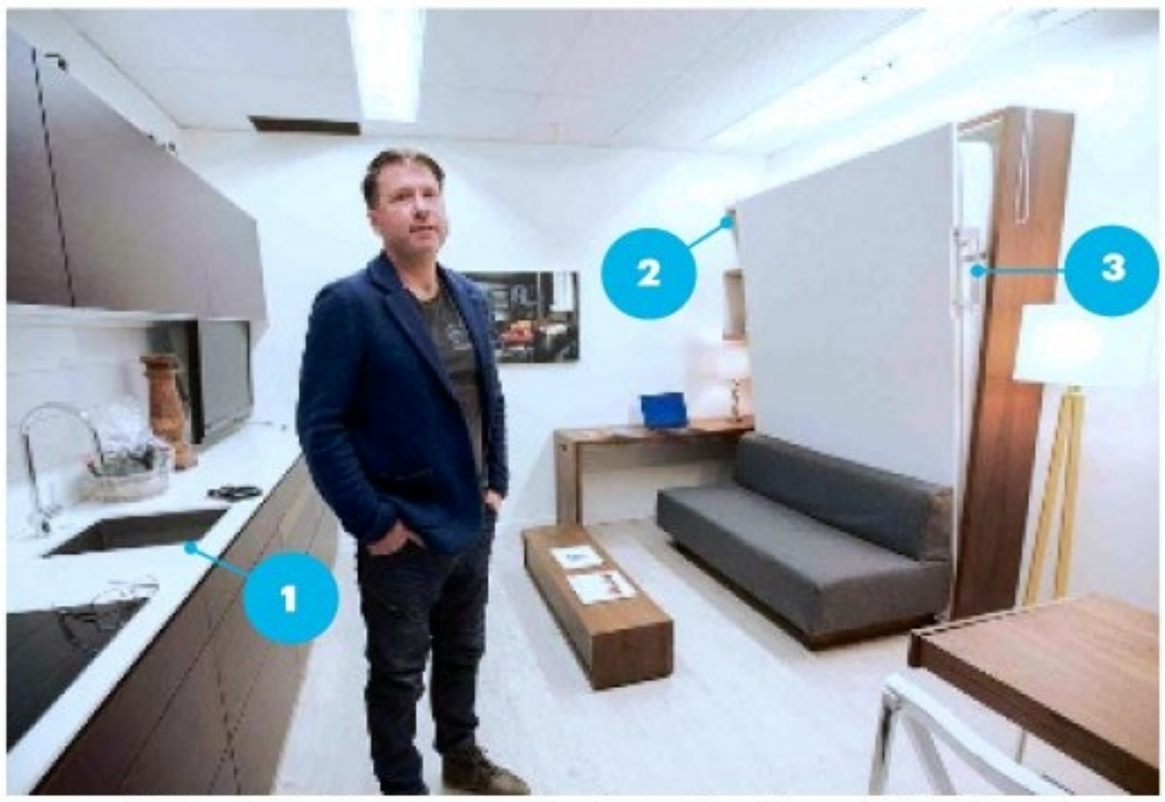
Jeremy Simes
Metro | Edmonton

Tim Antoniuk's prototype tiny condo redefines what most would consider a "cosy" living room.

The University of Alberta industrial design researcher has built a 230-square-foot living space in his university lab — including a kitchen, bathroom, sitting area and a fold-down bed — as part of a project to provide a glimpse into what the future of housing could look like.

"But it's not just for hip millennials," Antoniuk said Tuesday. "It can be affordable housing for people who need something downtown, close to work where everything can be easily accessed."

Antoniuk argues Edmonton is at a "tipping point" where we're going to have to start thinking differently about how we live.



Tim Antoniuk is redefining how people can live, showcasing a tiny condo he built in a lab. KEVIN TUONG/FOR METRO

"We're seeing our downtown transform, but it's going to get more expensive as property values go up."

And as values rise, only the wealthy will be able to afford to move in, he added.

"There's a whole host of issues about affordability and keeping downtown areas vibrant and diverse," he said. "This could do that."

He built it to study how tiny homes can be constructed effectively, he said, and members of the public can also come see it, he said.

Antoniuk estimates the condo could be built in the real market for about $150,000, and would be more cost-effective for developers because they can build more units per square foot.

"It's actually cheaper to buy a micro condo than rent an apartment," he said.

The condo features a sliding wall, "telescoping" drawers, a washroom and a bed that retracts from the wall. If done right, the space feels much larger than it is, Antoniuk said.

"People are always surprised when they come check it out — they always say it feels double the size.

"It's all about making a space feel as beautiful and wonderful as possible."

Antoniuk hopes to build a tiny condo geared for large families in the future to show the mini spaces can function for them, too.

HOW TO MAKE A TINY CONDO WORK

1 Versatile Kitchen: This isn't your ordinary kitchen. You still get a sink, stove and countertop, but you're also able to pull a TV out from one the cabinets. This can be easily tucked away when you aren't watching a show, or need to use the kitchen to cook.

2 Multipurpose wall: The wall has a slab of walnut wood embedded in it that can be used as a cutting board, or as a table that seats up to seven. The wall also includes other storage cabinets for clothes, shoes or other possessions you don't want lying around.

3 Wall bed: A tiny condo still means you can sleep on a nice queen-sized bed. The difference, however, is you'll have stow it away into the wall every day. Once you do that, a foldable couch can be pulled out from underneath the bed.

4 Sliding wall: You can't see it here, but a sliding wall divides the bathroom from the general living space — a necessity when you have to do your business. Sliding walls could also be added in different areas throughout the condo, which would be necessary when you need some alone time.

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An odd bronze bust stole the show — and set the internet aflame — at the unveiling of the renamed Aeroporto Cristiano Ronaldo in Funchal, Portugal

'His talent was evident'

MLS

Young phenom a bright spot in Whitecaps' slow start

Veteran defender Pa-Modou Kah was on the practice field with the Vancouver Whitecaps one morning last season when a lanky 15-year-old joined training.

Alphonso Davies had been promoted to the club's first team and found himself matched up against Kendall Waston, a hulking six-foot-five centre back.

With Waston bearing down on Davies, the teenager took one touch of the ball and coolly scooted away.

"I'm like: 'Wow,'" recalled the now-retired Kah. "When Kendall is coming a lot of people get afraid of him, but he was just composed and calm.

"His talent was evident. Everybody could see it."

Kah's was just one of the many jaw-dropping reactions during Davies' meteoric rise over the last 12 months.

Now 16, the Liberian-born, Edmonton-raised midfielder has been a bright spot for Vancouver, which is off to a sluggish 0-2-1 start to the Major League Soccer season.

Davies kicked off 2017 by scoring in the CONCACAF Champions League quarter-finals against the New York Red Bulls, a goal that helped propel the Whitecaps into the last four of the competition.

He also bagged an injury-time winner in the group stage, his smooth stride and deft handling often leaving opponents in his wake.

"He sees things and does things that you're unable to (teach)," said Vancouver head coach Carl Robinson. "You've either got it or you haven't. He's got that natural ability."

Davies joined the Whitecaps' residency program in 2015 before starring in the second-tier USL early last season.

He made his debut for Vancouver in the Canadian Championship in June, became the youngest player to start a game for the club a week later and signed an MLS contract July 15.

The next day he came on as a substitute against Orlando City SC as the third-youngest player in league history, and became the second-youngest to start a match in September.

But with all the hype, no one around the Whitecaps has seen even a trace of ego from the phenom.

"Playing and then going home to do homework is very difficult. All you want to do is lay in bed and sleep. Alphonso Davies

"I've got great support staff," said the soft-spoken Davies. "They're always on me to keep my feet on the ground. It can be taken away easily if you get off track."

Davies sometimes returns to the residency facility on off days, folding towels and chatting with fellow youngsters who dream of being in his shoes.

"He's a great talent, but only talent is not enough," said Kah, who is now an assistant coach with Vancouver. "What sets him apart is his human qualities. He's a down-to-earth, humble kid who works hard."

The Whitecaps have tried to keep Davies away from the spotlight as much as possible. They limit his media availability and downplay his performances, even when he's the best player on the field.

"You do have to remember he's just 16," said Robinson. "He's still got homework to do ... he's still got to be a boy.

"He's got to go play Playstation and hang around malls."

Whitecaps goalkeeper David Ousted said the club's veterans feel a responsibility to take care of him on and off the field.

"He keeps reminding me that he's half my age, which is frightening, isn't it?" said Ousted. "I don't know if he's young or I'm old.

"He's got that something special." THE CANADIAN PRESS

THE CANADIAN PRESS

BIO

ALPHONSO DAVIES

Position: Midfielder
Height: 5-10 **Weight:** 155
Age: 16 (11/02/2000)
Birthplace: Monrovia, Liberia
Hometown: Edmonton

IN BRIEF

Canucks headed to China for pre-season action

The NHL will play its first games in China this fall.

The Los Angeles Kings and Vancouver Canucks will meet in two pre-season matches, Sept. 21 in Shanghai and Sept. 23 in Beijing.

China is expected to be a large focus of the league's international ventures. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Osmond second after short program at worlds

Kaetlyn Osmond of Marystown, N.L., is just three points behind defending champion Evgenia Medvedeva of Russia after the world figure skating championship short program on Wednesday in Helsinki.

Toronto's Gabrielle Daleman sits third as Canada tries to win its first world women's singles since Joannie Rochette won silver in 2009.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Thunder rally behind Westbrook's 57 points

Russell Westbrook had 57 points, 13 rebounds and 11 assists to lead the Oklahoma City Thunder to a 114-106 overtime win over the Orlando Magic on Wednesday night.

Westbrook, a leading MVP candidate, led the Thunder from behind by as many as 21 points in the second half as he recorded his 38th triple-double of the season.

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MAKE IT TODAY

Crunchy Asparagus Fries

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

You'll never look at asparagus the same way again after you try this crunchy version of a fry.

Ready in 30 minutes
Prep time: 10 minutes
Cook time: 20 minutes
Serves 4

Ingredients
- 1 bunch of fresh organic asparagus, cleaned and ends snapped off
- 1/2 cup spelt flour
- 1/4 cup panko
- 1/2 cup parmesan cheese
- 1/2 cup multi-grain bread crumbs
- 1 tsp ground garlic
- 2 eggs
- salt and pepper
- 1 tsp olive oil

Directions

1. Spray a baking sheet with cooking spray and set aside. Preheat the oven to 375.

2. Place spelt flour on a plate. In a wide, shallow bowl, whisk the eggs with a fork. Then mix panko, parmesan cheese, bread crumbs and garlic in another wide, shallow bowl. Now you've got your dredging station ready.

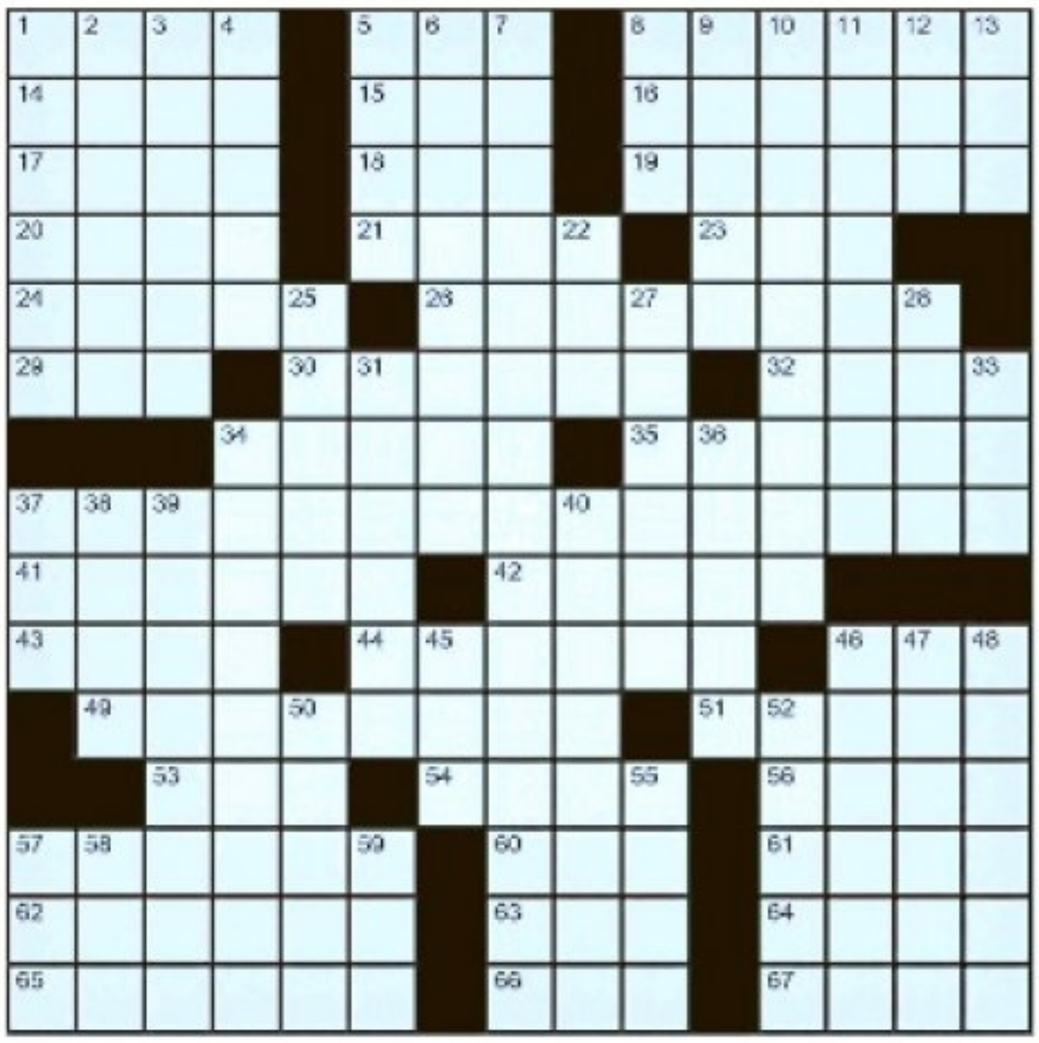
3. Taking three or four stalks of asparagus at a time, coat them in flour, then drop them in the egg. Finally, roll them in the panko mixture and place them on the prepared baking sheet, leaving a bit of space between them. Repeat until you've finished the entire bunch of asparagus. Sprinkle with salt and pepper.

4. Pop the baking sheet in the oven and bake for 15 to 20 minutes, or until the breading is golden brown and crisp.

FOR MORE MEAL IDEAS, VISIT SWEETPOTATOCHRONICLES.COM

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Prep the baking flour
5. Movie studio
8. Sophisticated sofa
14. Understood
15. "Give __ chance!" (Come on, please!)
16. Yukon: __ National Park and Reserve
17. __ of Man
18. Eggs packaging [abbr.]
19. Pro dancer of DWTS fame, Louis Van __
20. Donkey/horse
21. "Woe __!" (Boo-hoo!)
23. 'Dial' add-on
24. Nudges
26. Nepean, Ontario born star: 2 wds.
29. Archery wood
30. Alberta Badlands: Pillar-shaped geological formation with a flat top
32. Ark guy
34. Category
35. Policing weapons
37. Michelangelo's David of 1504 and Moses of 1515: 2 wds.
41. Texas city: 2 wds.
42. "End of the Road" by Boyz ___
43. Torch the iron
44. Victorian-style overcoat
46. Bread roll variety
49. Step all over
51. Oil __
53. __ degree
54. Have __ (Taste the beverage)
56. Tomato variety
57. 'Orange' tea selections
60. Belonging to Knoxville's li'l state
61. Cognizant of the confidentiality: 2 wds.
62. Betters
63. Initials-sharers of Barbra Streisand's first husband
64. Light fog
65. David Bowie's "__ Love"
66. Q-U's middle
67. Stars in scenes

DOWN
1. Hardly habilimented
2. Be a Sun Life Financial customer
3. Gent
4. Canadian wife of rocker Gene Simmons, Shannon __
5. Gladiator's 2101
6. Becomes ticked: 2 wds.
7. Nuclear explosion or #51-Across: 2 wds.
8. Music style
9. "__ Gantry" (1960)
10. 2003 romantic comedy starring #26-Across and Diane Lane, "Under the ___"
11. Skin pic applier
12. Mariner's dir.
13. Tube-shaped fish
22. Rock producer Brian
25. Elvis' 'Old' dog-in-song, and namesakes
27. Serve a sentence: 2 wds.
28. Tortoise's competition
31. What a rock band is when getting a lot of mileage out of a private jet: 2 wds.
33. "Amelia" (2009) actress ...her initials-sharers
34. Manitoba community known for its 'Happy Rock' attraction
36. New __ (Avant-garde musicians)
37. Stitch
38. Canadian actor Walter Pidgeon's role in "Mrs. Miniver" (1942)
39. Connected to the satellite
40. Bridal salon appointments
45. Grassland
46. "The __ Woman" (Lindsay Wagner's '70s series)
47. Nearly
48. Garden's greenery
50. "___. Oz Show"
52. Ms. Ballerina
55. "Hey, there..."
57. Cooking spray
58. Comedian Mr. Philips
59. US tax ID

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
You might have thoughts today about how to revolutionize a marriage, partnership or close friendship. Maybe these are ideas percolating in your mind for some time?

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Because this is a year where you can get a better job or improve your existing job, you are full of big ideas! Today some of these ideas might come to fruition.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
You might take a new approach to dealing with kids, as well as vacations and the time that you take for fun and pleasure. You need to balance work and play!

Cancer June 22 - July 23
This is the year when you can figure out how to get your dream home. Today you might have ideas about how to improve your existing home or get another one. Exciting!

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
You might be surprised by the ideas you have to introduce improvements to your world. It's encouraging. New ideas lead to new results and a new future.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Many of you see new ways of making money. Many of you also see better ways of taking care of what you already own.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
It's almost as if something is in the air, because you are keen to make improvements for yourself and the world around This is a healthy attitude!

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Many of you have been more tuned in to your spiritual world than usual. You are aware that what goes on inside affects things that go on outside.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Your relationship with a friend or perhaps a group is changing now. Fortunately, it's changing for the better; and this is a good thing.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
This year you'll make an excellent impression on your world, especially on bosses, parents and VIPs. Today you might have ideas about how to do this.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Travel plans, as well as plans to get further education, are exciting! This week you might consider doing something you never thought you would do before.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
You can improve the arrangements you have about inheritances, wills and shared property. Something will happen this year that benefits you.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

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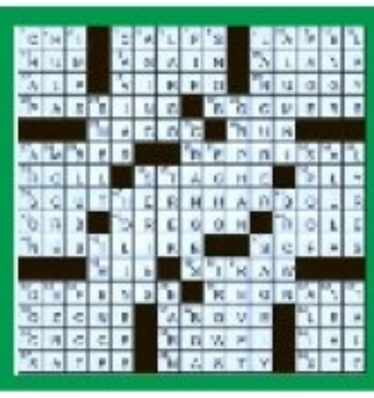

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3	6	2	7	8	4	5	9	1
9	8	1	6	5	3	7	2	4
7	5	4	9	1	2	6	3	8

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